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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 285, 407

entire budget. It's an awesome exercise, and I'm glad he's put this before us. I am, though, uncertain about this tug-of-war between the tax hikers and the budget cutters. The tax hikers are down on the shoreline. They like life by the shore. They don't want to move. Yes, they see that there's a surge wave, there's a flood tide coming at them in the next two years. They're going to stack tax increases one on top of the other like sandbags and build a flood wall to keep that surge away. Up from the shoreline in the foothills you've got the budget cutters, I would say Senator Erdman foremost among them. They're still going to build the main component of the flood wall, they're going to extend LB 285, and their position is, come up a little higher up in the foothills, do part of the flood wall, and that's the solution. And then you've got me up on another plateau, shouting myself hoarse, telling them to keep climbing. State aid alone is going to engulf you, even in the foothills, in the out years. Come on up here and tackle the real problem. In fact, let's do like we're doing with term limits. Let's put a marker out there on state aid, then use the intervening year to gauge public reaction and figure out what to do next. So I'm not too excited about the tug-of-war between the tax hikers and the budget cutters, simply because whoever wins, it doesn't matter; we're still in the same fix. But maybe an amendment such as this will get us moving in the right direction. Or maybe it leads to something else, which leads to something else that nobody even imagines at this moment. So I'll continue to listen to debate. I'm not sure how I'm going to vote. But let me just conclude by congratulating Senator Erdman again. In fact, if he wants any time, I'll yield him the balance of whatever time I have left. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Erdman, you have 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

**SENATOR ERDMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Maxwell. I tell you, the reality of the state's position is one that needs to be addressed sooner than later. And I appreciate your efforts. I know that we have had many discussions about your perceived proposal versus what your actual proposal is. And I think that it's been a good discussion there. I also need to respond to something that Senator Pedersen says. Again, I'm